

CLAIMS

- 5 1. A decoder for a digital audiovisual transmission system, the decoder including a processor for decompressing and displaying compressed still picture data and a memory, characterised in that the memory comprises a storage memory allocated to receive from the processor decompressed data representing a plurality of still picture images, and at least one display memory adapted to hold contemporaneously data representing multiple still picture images readable by the processor prior to display,
- 10 the data representing the plurality of still picture images being copied from the storage memory to the display memory for subsequent display.
- 15 2. A decoder as claimed in claim 1 in which the digital image data copied from the storage memory into the display memory is modified or duplicated during the copying step.
- A 3. A decoder as claimed in claim 1 or 2 in which the processor is adapted to process image data in the display memory as one layer amongst a plurality of layers superimposed one over the other when displayed.
- 20 4. A decoder as claimed in claim 3 in which the processor is adapted to display the image data in the display memory in a layer normally used by the processor means to display broadcast audiovisual information.
- 25 A 5. A decoder as claimed in ^{claim 1} ~~any preceding claim~~ in which the memory comprises a second display memory readable by the processor means and corresponding to a second layer of displayed image data, data being copied from the storage memory to the second display memory for subsequent display in the second layer of image data.
- 30 6. A decoder as claimed in claim 5 in which the digital image data copied from the storage memory to the second display memory is modified or duplicated during the copying step.

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7. A decoder as claimed in ^{claim 1} ~~any preceding claim~~, in which partial image data is copied from the storage memory to a display memory so as to permit display of part of an image.

8. A decoder as claimed in ^{claim 1} ~~any preceding claim~~, in which image data is copied from the storage memory into a first or second display memory under control of a high level application running on the processor.

9. A decoder as claimed in ^{claim 1} ~~any preceding claim~~, in which compressed digital picture data is stored in a buffer memory means prior to decompression by the processor.

10. A decoder as claimed in claim 9, in which the buffer means comprises a plurality of buffer memory elements.

11. A decoder as claimed in claim 10, in which the decompression and transfer of image data from the buffer memory elements to the storage memory, and from the storage memory to a display memory, is controlled by the processor such that image information present in the storage memory is transferred to the display at the end of the decompression of the contents of each buffer element.

12. A decoder as claimed in ^{claim 1} ~~any preceding claim~~, in which the decompression and transfer of a group of images in a single-image file from the buffer memory to the storage memory, and from the storage memory to a display memory, is controlled by the processor means such that image information is transferred from the storage memory to the display memory at the end of the decompression of each image in the image file.

13. A decoder as claimed in ^{claim 1} ~~any preceding claim~~, in which the processor is adapted to decompress picture data sent in a compression standard that uses a colour look-up table.

14. A decoder as claimed in ^{claim 1} ~~any preceding claim~~, in which the processor is adapted

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to decompress picture data sent in a compression standard that uses a red/blue/green colour value associated with each pixel.

15. A decoder as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ in which the processor comprises a general processor for decompressing digital picture data and a graphic processor for preparing the decompressed data for display.

16. A method of digital image processing in a decoder for a digital audiovisual transmission system, the decoder comprising a processor for decompressing and displaying compressed still picture data characterised in that decompressed digital image data representing a plurality of still picture images received from the processor is transmitted to a storage memory and thereafter copied from the storage memory to a display memory which holds contemporaneously data representing said multiple picture images, the data being read by the processor for subsequent display of such multiple picture images.

17. A decoder for a digital audiovisual transmission system substantially as herein described.

18. A method of digital image processing in a decoder for a digital audiovisual transmission system substantially as herein described.